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Memorandum on Clifford ("Murray") C. Smith

On April 5, 1972 a Murray C. Smith paid a visit to the Committee office. He identified himself as the Clifford Smith who several weeks back had phoned the Committee and said he would stop in to tell us about an incident which occurred during the border check made in the aftermath of the JFK assassination.

According to Murray Smith he was a vice-consul at the American Consulate in Juárez, Mexico from 1962-1964. His usual duties consisted of issuing visas and passports. After the assassination he and another employee were instructed to check border crossings in the Juárez-El Paso area to see if there was any record of LHO having entered Mexico. Before they got started on this task, further instructions asked them to check on Ruby's name too. Smith was uncertain of the time element, but he seemed to think that the latter request came after Ruby had shot Oswald.

At Yseta, a small village 10-15 miles downstream, they found a record of entry for a "John or Jack Rubenstein--whatever Ruby's real name was." The destination listed was Mexico, D. F. Smith says he thought that was significant; the bridge at Yseta is used only by local residents, is not known to tourists or even the people in El Paso, and it is way out of the way for someone coming from Dallas and headed for Mexico City. Although his partner was inclined to pass it off, Smith says that either a telegram or operations memo was drafted by a Wayne Gilchrist and sent to the State Department advising it of this discovery. Smith says he tried to locate this

memo in the couple of years before he left the State Department but had no success. He still has friends in the State Department and will try to get one of them to locate it.

Smith indicated that they were instructed to check border records going back either six months or a year prior to the assassination. He was also unsure of the date on which Jack or John Rubenberg or Rubenstein crossed, but he thought it was perhaps six to nine months before the assassination.

Smith also recalls that prior to the assassination he received an entry permit request from a "Suzi Wong" who wanted to be a stripper in one of Ruby's nightclubs. She was not, however, Chinese or even Oriental, but Smith says Mexican strippers sometimes give themselves Oriental names.

Smith currently lives at 1854 Wyoming Avenue, N. W., which is the address of a "Movement" organization. He says he left the State Department because of his anti-war activities.

Jim Lesar
April 10, 1972